

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News



Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc, 55 Washington St, Suite 624, Brooklyn NY 11201. Phone 718-834-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 2006 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 16 pages • Vol. 29, No. 31 AWP • Saturday, August 12, 2006 • FREE

HILLARY RIPS 'PARK' CONDOS

Calls luxury homes on waterfront 'disingenuous'

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Sen. Hillary Clinton at the Sunset Park Senior Center on Wednesday.

Clinton called the housing scheme "disingenuous." "It's not luxury housing we need," she said. "We absolutely need affordable housing."

The project site spans the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfronts, from Atlantic Avenue to the Manhattan Bridge. The first housing is planned for the corner of Atlantic Avenue; in addition, the massive industrial building on Furman Street, between Joralemon Street and Atlantic Avenue, has been transferred from city to "park" property, allowing it to be expropriated, demolished and converted to residential use while skirting city review.

"If parks had to be self-sustaining, would anyone have ever built a park?" Clinton asked.

Leaders of the Empire State Development Corporation — the state agency that owns the "park" site — have insisted that the project be self-sustaining. As a result, the agency is constructing luxury housing as a precursor to recreational development.

Clinton echoed the project's opponents, questioning

why the government would cede public land to private developers.

"Public land should be public land," she said.

The senator's summer reading

may have prompted her to speak out on the thorny issue. She's just

finished the still-unreleased autobiography of Nobel Prize recipient Wangari Maathai, a long-time green crusader in Kenya.

"One of her great accomplishments was stopping luxury housing in Uhuru Park in Nairobi,"

said Clinton, who recommended the book.

Opponents of the state "park"

plan included Clinton for speaking out. "We are extremely heartened by her remark," said Judi Francis, president of the Brooklyn

Bridge Park Defense Fund, which is suing the state over the financing scheme.

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, the agency overseeing the development, refused to comment.

On hot night, public vents about A'Yards

The Brooklyn Papers

Three community boards surrounding Bruce Ratner's proposed Atlantic Yards mega-development held hastily scheduled, little-publicized and legally irrelevant public hearings last week to give Brooklynites a chance to vent.

Little was said that wasn't said before at the June 1 hearings.

Community Boards 2 and 6, which cover town areas such as Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope and Fort Greene, heard almost universal opposition to the project. Community Board 8, which covers a much-less-wealthy area extending from Prospect Heights to Brownsville, heard more support.

Community Board 2

Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill,

DUMBO, Fort Greene

CB 2's meeting featured familiar complaints against the project, plus a handful new one. That the Empire State Development Corporation released its 2,000-page environmental

review of Atlantic Yards during the summer and left too little time — just 66 days — for public review.

The hearing started off with presenter Jim Stuckey, making his first of three stops on the night. Stuckey defended the 16-story skyscraper, arena, hotel, office space and 6,860-unit residential project on the grounds that it would create jobs, affordable housing and tax revenue while not unduly affecting surrounding neighborhoods.

After Stuckey, 29 area residents offered familiar reasons for opposing the project: its size and density; the traffic it would create; the supposedly undemocratic, state-run approval process; the public subsidies being handed to a private developer.

Only a few community members spoke in support of the project. Surrounded by four fellow supporters in hard hats and orange vests, both said they supported the project because it would bring construction jobs.

Robert Perris, district manager of CB2, said the hearing was disappointing because the board is charged with seeking "technical" information about the DEIS, rather than merely compiling "community" complaints about Atlantic Yards.

"With the very short timetable that the state's given us for responding ... people haven't had a chance to review the tremendous amount of information" in the DEIS, he said.

— Rachel Monahan

Community Board 6

Park Slope, Carroll Gardens,

Red Hook, Cobble Hill

Fireworks erupted at this other-weekend public hearing when a representative of the Brooklyn United church group slammed the CB 6 community for choosing to "ignore" the concerns of black people who support the project.

Omari Wilks, who identified himself as speaking on behalf of the Rev.

See MEETINGS on page 13

CB 8's meeting featured familiar

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Community Board 8

Gunpoint holdup in doctor's office

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

A visit to a Remsen Street doctor's office was anything but routine for six patients who found themselves as gunpoint to a holdup during routine on Aug. 4.

A trio of thieves rushed into the medical complex, near Clinton Street, just before 5 pm, police said. One thief pulled a silver pistol and ordered the patients to give over their valuables. The victims: three men and three women, ranging in age from 33 to 61 years old — compiled, and were not physically hurt.

The robbers ran off with over \$8,500 in valuables, including a laptop, an iPhone, a telephone, a silver Rolex watch, various gold jewelry pieces and a diamond-encrusted wedding band.

In order to protect their escape route, the thieves insisted their victims "count to one million" before leaving the office, or calling for help.

Pie protected

A pizza delivery man suffered a bottle-blow to the head on Aug. 3, but held onto the pie despite the thug's demands, police said.

The would-be thief ap-

proached the 30-year-old pizza guy at 10:20 pm, near the corner of Willoughby and Remsen Streets. He pointed the delivery man on the head with a glass bottle and insisted, "I'm going to take the pizza."

But the threat proved empty as the victim held onto the food and eluded the thief, without suffering serious injury.

Police are searching for a black man, approximately 30 years-old, 6-foot-1, 200 pounds, with short hair. On the day of the holdup, he wore white sneakers and a white shirt, over blue jeans.

Beer bash

Police arrested a 39-year-old man who smashed a stolen can of beer into a clerk's face when the employee tried to call 911.

The man wandered into the State Street deli, at the corner of Bond Street, around 10:15 pm, and helped himself to a brew. When the 35-year-old owner confronted him, he dialed the phone to call police, the thief batted the phone from his hand and dashed into the front door with the beer.

The clerk suffered swelling and redness on his face. A security video captured the at-

POLICE BLOTTER

tack and helped police track down their man, who now faces assault charges.

Quick hit

It took burglars less than three hours to ransack a Henry Street home and remove a host of valuables, ranging from flat-screen TV to a collection of statuettes from India, police said.

The robbers pushed their way through the front door of the apartment, in a building near Love Lane, between 3rd and 4th Street on Aug. 2. Once inside, they searched the home and removed what they wanted through the front door.

The stolen goods included an Apple computer, a wireless keyboard and a flat-screen television, worth \$5,000 high-end TV, \$400 in computer software and the imported sculptures.

Although a neighbor heard noises in the apartment that afternoon, no one saw the thief leave.

Toothy thief

A man who snatched an armload of valuable platters, an electronic toothbrush and a portable DVD player from a Brooklyn Heights home while the owner was at work on Aug. 3, police said.

The man had climbed up the fire escape at 2nd Street just off Joralemon Street, forced open a window and slipped inside the home between 8:30 am and 7:30 pm. Once inside, he loaded up the mental. The value of the \$1,000, grabbed the DVD player and, oddly, the toothbrush and bolted through the front door.

Remain calm

Calm would have been a tough enough to muster.

But that's exactly what a man demanded as he rifled the man's pockets.

The thieves can off with a Visa card, an iPod, a cell-

phone and a money clip; the clip was worth \$25, but didn't hold any cash at the time.

The victim, who wasn't hurt, remained calm enough to remember plenty of details from India, police said.

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OP-ED

Atlantic Yards: A new Battle of Brooklyn

By Joe Ferris
for The Brooklyn Papers

On Aug. 27, 1776, the Battle of Brooklyn, the first and largest in the War of Independence, was fought right here in what are now the streets of Gowanus, Prospect Park and Green-Wood Cemetery.

All too few Brooklynites are aware that their fate — and the fate of our fledgling republic — were in the balance on that historic day. General Howe and Lord Howe had brought the entire British Army and Navy to New York and were determined to crush the American rebellion.

Their 17,000 well-trained and equipped troops of the superpower of its day were arrayed against Washington's army of 11,000 colonial soldiers, state militiamen and ordinary citizens who believed in the ideals of individual liberty and political freedom.

The irony is that today, we are truly engaged in the Battle for Brooklyn.

The civil liberties and political freedom that the Declaration of Independence proclaimed and the blood and sacrifice offered in the Battle of Brooklyn by patriots are now being trampled and subverted by the tyranny of a distant oligarchy that is unaccountable to its unelected representatives.

The Atlantic Yards project is an attack on our civil liberties, political freedom, our neighborhoods and our environment.

The seizure of private homes and businesses, under the hammer of eminent domain, for the purpose of benefiting another person, makes our Bill of Rights null and void.

To impose this megalith of a monstrosity upon Brooklyn's brownstone neighborhoods, without the normal city public review process, makes a mockery of democracy.

During the 1960s and 1970s, with the inspiration of Jane Jacobs, citizens fought and stopped Robert Moses



Revolutionary war reenactors march during the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Brooklyn in 2001. Former Assemblyman Joe Ferris argues in the accompanying Op-Ed that Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project has ignited a new battle of Brooklyn that recalls this historic 1776 struggle.

and his urban removal and destruction of our city neighborhoods.

What is the Empire State Development Corporation? Who is Charles Gargano? Who elected him and gave him the power to impose our airways, steal our sky and Manhattanize the low-rise residential character of Brooklyn's neighborhoods? Where are our elected representatives?

And where is your revolutionary spirit? The new Battle for Brooklyn is on! Will you be a part of it?

Hail the sacrifices of the famed "Maryland 400" next

weekend at the Old Stone House and the nearby Michael A. Rawley American Legion Post.

It was there that the Marylanders, led by General William Alexander, faced a force of 2,000 British regulars and 200 Scottish Highlanders, whose canons were firing down on Washington's American soldiers fleeing across Gowanus Creek to Brooklyn Heights.

Wave after wave of heroes attacked their foe until they seized and silenced their cannons.

Two-hundred and fifty six Marylanders were killed and

they were buried in a mass grave on the farm of Adrian Van Brunt. Their valiant bravery and sacrifice gave Washington time to regroup and escape to Manhattan on Aug. 29, 1776, to fight another day.

Joe Ferris was a New York State Assemblyman from 1975-1984, representing Park Slope.

The Michael A. Rawley American Legion Post (193 Ninth St., between Third and Fourth avenues) will host the opening of its 10th Annual Back-to-School Week on Sat., Aug. 19, at 10 am. On Sunday, Aug. 27, Green-Wood Cemetery will offer tours and lectures from 9:30 am-2 pm.

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Ridge seeks homeless relief

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers



Went to the railyards to call for the homeless to be removed and security was needed. But the owners of New York and Atlantic Railway, which leases the site from the Long Island Rail Road, contends that homeless and dumping concerns are overblown.

"There's been no shirking of responsibility," said Railway president Fred Krebs. "We've removed [the homeless people], we've cleaned up the site, and we've repaired the fence."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

August 12, 2006

Serve! Set! Spike!

Pro volleyball players invade Coney for weekend-long tourney

By Eleazer Gorenstein
for The Brooklyn Papers

Get ready, volleyball fans and beachgoers. The Association of Volleyball Professionals' league is making its first-ever stop in New York, coming to Coney Island from Thursday, Aug. 17 through Sunday, Aug. 20.

"With Coney Island being the most popular beach on the eastern seaboard, the AVP tournament coming here means volleyball has really hit the big time," said Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. "The sun and sand, the rides, the competition — it's a match made in Brooklyn!"

The Coney Island tourney, to be held alongside the Astroland Amusement Park, will be the first time many of the professional players will serve, set and spike in New York.

The number one duo in the world, Mike Lambert and Stein Metzger, are going in with one goal in mind: to win and dominate.

"Yeah, we're going in to win the thing," Lambert, the AVP 2004 Official Player of the Year, told GO Brooklyn. "Same as with all the big tournaments. Just to be in a city like New York, it's such a cool, fun place, and Coney Island is like the California lifestyle on the East Coast. I've never been there, but I love music from Brooklyn, A Tribe Called Quest and De La Soul, so it'll be awesome to actually be there."

Casey Jennings, part of the third-ranked duo in the world, believes the crowd will be friendly.

Wing-o-rama

In case this year's Association of Volleyball Professionals Brooklyn Open isn't enough to satisfy your hunger for intense competition on the Coney Island boardwalk, there is a competition that is sure to hit the spot.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, compete in — or just watch — the fourth annual Frank's RedHot Battle to the Bone Wing Eating Championship. The competition, which begins at 3 p.m. at the 11th St. and Surf Ave. entrance to the boardwalk, will be running simultaneously with the new AVP Brooklyn volleyball tourney. The gluttonous event will be emceed by Kevin Roberts, author of the cookbook "Munchies," a CBS radio food show host and chef of the Gas Lamp Tavern in San Diego.

"The contest is about flavor," Roberts said. "New York is known as the place where Buffalo wings were invented, so we know New Yorkers can handle the flavor. Pairing with the AVP event is a match made in wing-eating heaven, and my advice to contestants is to just enjoy it."

Sign-ups for the competition run from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Frank's RedHot booth, and the preliminary qualifying round will be at noon.

Entrants will be assigned a heat in which they will be given five wings. The one to eat the most wings from each heat, who eat their wings fastest, will advance to the final round. Then, contestants in the final round will be given a tray of 20 wings, and just three minutes to eat all that they can. At the end of the three min-



Once to watch: Among the professional players who will hit the beach on Coney Island for this week's AVP Brooklyn Open are Casey Jennings (above) and Mike Lambert (right), who is one-half of the best-ranked duo in the world.

"I don't really know what to expect," he said. "I am really excited, though. The first time I ever came to New York, I stayed in Brooklyn and the people were super friendly."

Living in L.A., you hear that New Yorkers are not friendly to tourists, but I found that wasn't the case at all."

Jennings, 31, and his partner Matt Fuerbringer, 32, who have won AVP events in nearby Belmar, N.J., are the top 100 tandems ranked in the top five who have stuck together since they started on the tour.

Over 150 of the top professional beach volleyball players will be competing for a \$25,000 prize. The event, which will be televised live on NBC, will begin with a qualifier on Aug. 17 and will continue through the weekend with the men's final at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 19. The women's final will follow at 4:30 p.m. on Aug. 20.

For the AVP, which has annual tournament stops in cities like Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, having a tournament in Brooklyn is a chance to show New York that volleyball is not just a friendly beach sport, but is in fact one that features a competitive competition, said AVP Tour Commissioner Leonard Armato.

Armato has been trying to bring an AVP to New York for years, and, with Bruce Ratner's help, has now seen his dream come true. Ratner's Brooklyn Yards project and Brooklyn Superdome will partner with the AVP to build a temporary 4,000-seat stadium on the beach, and will also construct 12 outer courts with limited general admission seating.

"Coming to New York, this takes the sport to another level," Armato said. "We will be exposed to a much greater audience, with many more people now that we are able to penetrate Brooklyn and New York."

Volleyball is the fastest-growing sport in the country and is the most popular summer Olympic sport, according to attendance and

utes, the top three competitors will win.

The final round is staged for 10 minutes during a break in the championship match action, and will take place on the court.

The winner is determined by speed and number of wings consumed, and the prizes include \$150 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

"In last year's competition, one amateur wing-eater drove from over three hours away and finished 15 seconds faster than the second-place winner, who was a pro," Roberts said. "That shows the focus of our contest is geared toward the everyday person."

— Eleazer Gorenstein



Get sauced: Volleyball spectators, who want to engage in a little competition, will be given the spotlight like John Miller of Atlanta (above), who ate 20 Buffalo wings in less than five minutes.



television viewing, said Armato.

Any duo can try to qualify for the Brooklyn Open on Aug. 17, between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., for a chance to take shot at the prize.

The tournament starts with 32 teams and is double elimination. The tournament becomes single elimination once there are only four teams left.

"Coney Island is a perfect fit for a new tournament," Armato said. "The beach volleyball is perfect to represent the beach culture of the 21st century, and Coney Island beach is the beach with probably the greatest tradition in the country," Armato added. "Put the two together and you have a perfect partnership bridging the past and the future. I see this opening being a flagship event every year and that's exciting."

EXHIBIT

Smell you later

While there are hardly lots of wonderful reasons for visitors to breathe deeply in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden — like the heady scent of roses in June — this month, visitors to the garden's bonsai museum are invited to smell an odor most foul.

And the garden's billing it as a once in a lifetime experience!

BBG plant propagator Dr. Alessandro Chiari has been nurturing this stinker, *Amorphophallus titanum*

monly known in horticultural circles as the corpse flower because of its signature halitosis-like odor. He's been monitoring the plant's progress, and he can't wait to get his first whiff of the offensive aroma, which can be detected as soon as the flower blooms. While the plant emits the putrid perfume to entice pollinators (like carrion beetles and flies), it also seems to attract humans by the thousands who are drawn to the idea of witnessing an event that's as rare in its native habitat — the tropical rainforests of Sumatra — as it is in cultivation. (A blooming corpse flower in the San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers is pictured above.)

"Once that have been in close contact with the flower say the smell is something you really can't forget," assures Chiari. In fact, BBG spokeswoman Leeanne Lavin said that the security guards would be provided with masks to help them brave the stench.

The enormous plant, nicknamed Baby by the BBG staff, has been growing since 1996. On July 31, Chiari discovered the flower bud and ever since the staff has been monitoring the plant's progress, anticipating its first bloom (which will also mark the first bloom of a corpse flower ever — at BBG).

As of Aug. 10, the plant's bud measured 64.5-inches tall, Chiari, who can camp out by the corpse plant if it seems likely she may bloom overnight, was continuing to measure the plant's speedy growth three times a day and posting her stats on the garden's Web site, www.bbg.org, along with photos from BBG's Web cam.

Chiari explained the need to baby-sit the corpse flower. "When the plant will bloom is difficult to predict."

The *Amorphophallus titanum* is on display in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's C.W. Starr Bonsai Museum. The garden is located at 900 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights. Viewing is free with a \$5 suggested donation (\$5 adults, \$3 seniors, students with ID, free for children younger than 16). For more information, call (718) 623-7200 or call www.bbg.org.

— Lisa J. Curtis

DANCE



Dance fever

Dance companies from Brooklyn and beyond will kick up their heels in Von King Park as part of the CityParks Dance program on Aug. 12 and 19.

Two of the troupes — Urban Bush Women and Creative Outlet Dance Theater of Brooklyn — are hometown talent, based in Brooklyn.

The Urban Bush Women will be performing "Rocking with Pearl: Africa Diaries." The unique UBW piece tells the true story of Pearl Primus, a choreographer and social activist who traveled to Africa and brought back an original native dance to America, said UBW Managing Director Amy Casello.

"It's very lyrical," Casello said. "And it includes a lot from Pearl's diaries about her experiences in Africa."

Creative Outlet Dance Theater, known for interpreting socio-cultural issues through poetry, song and dance, "will be performing 'Forives,'" said Norva Alleyne, the company manager. "It incorporates the New Orleans tragedy with mother nature, earth, water and rain through modern dance infused with a little African."

Also performing are Manhattan's Nicholas Leichter (pictured) and a hip-hop import from Cleveland, Illstyle & Pearl Productions.

See the *Urban Bush Women* and *Illstyle & Pearl Productions* on Aug. 12 and *Nicholas Leichter* and *Creative Outlet Dance Theater* on Aug. 19 at Von King Park (Greene Street and Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant) at 3 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org or call (212) 360-8290.

— Jovana Rizzo

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Sun blocks

Borough's mixologists use fruits & herbs in their cool, refreshing summer cocktails

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

No one ever said Brooklyn in August is a peachy place to be. Not when the humidity turns people's clothes into wet laundry, and their hair, well, that's too gruesome an image to commit to paper. There is a simple solution to sweltering heat, one that will soften the edges of the sweat-laden subway stations and ease the heat-induced grouchiness that is summer in the city: an ice cold cocktail.

Borough restaurants and bars get creative this time of year, infusing vodkas with fruit or herbs and water with citrus juice or a blender for green market daiquiris.

And, never since James Bond uttered, "shaken, not stirred," has the martini — especially one made with vodka — been so popular. Personnel at five of the seven establishments profiled this week have created a specialty version of the cocktail as their customers' drink of choice.

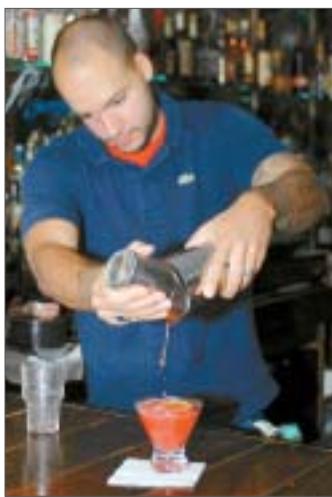
Why not? Anyone who drinks a martini is beautifully groomed, impeccably dressed, and all but impervious to the soaring temperatures. (At least that's how they look after they've downed one or two.)

Max Joice calls himself a "boulevard guy." That's the reason the manager and cocktail developer at Night and Day, a bar-and-literary-venue located in Park Slope, concocted "Honey's Kiss" (below).

"It's a perfect summer drink,"

Joice says, "like an alcoholic lemonade." Joice prefers Basil Hayden's single-batch bourbon as the drink's foundation because, "It's the smoothest, most balanced bourbon with honey and simple sugar syrup cuts the sweetness with fresh lemon juice, and then pours the works into an ice filled highball glass. Sweet and slightly bitter, frosty with heat, bourbon, it's a sweet tease all right."

Speaking of teases, they've got one over at Apartment 138 on Smith Street. That would be the "Watermelon Martini" (\$8), the cocktail that bartender Alfred DiScipio suggests to his Boerum Hill clientele when they want, (forgive me for this) an icebreaker. The pale



pink, distinctly Metrosexual combination is a mix of watermelon puree, citrus-infused vodka and De Kuyper's "Watermelon Pucker" schnapps.

When the weather heats up, Paloma's bartender Mack McCarthy starts shaking. McCarthy, who mans the bar at this popular Greenpoint eatery-arts-venue, pours a lot of "Rhubarb Martini" (\$8). The chef-sommelier adds a little sugar syrup then extracts the juice. Then we mix it with lemon-infused vodka and lemon and lime juices, and shake it up with a little sugar," he says. "People are really into the drink." For all vodka-based drinks, or straight up, McCarthy uses 42 Below, an organic vodka from New

Zealand that he infuses with ingredients like lychee nuts, kaffir lime leaves, chili and ginger.

Even the name of the cocktail sounds cool: "Mermaid" (\$8). The bartender at the swanky Royal's Downtown in Carroll Gardens uses a mix of Limoncello (Italian lemon liqueur), Stoli sugar syrup and fresh pineapple juice then pours the tropical concoction into a martini glass and garnishes it with a sprig of mint.

One sip of this frosty, herbaceous drink and you'll be heading the siren song of the "Mermaid," too.

Keeping the oceanic theme about, there's Sea Thai Bistro in New

Williamsburg. Sea doesn't have a bar; it has two — and a pool with a small boat in the center of the vast space. (How hip is it? Samantha hooked up with Smith here in an episode of "Sex and the City.") Mike, one of the eatery's bartenders, said the "Lemon Drop Martini" (\$9), a blend of Brimley's

Gold mango-flavored rum, vodka, Triple Sec and a splash of sour mix, keeps the patrons' inhibitions turned to low.

Like Sea's clientele, the folks at another Williamsburg venue, Zippi Zape, know how to have a good time. Diners gathered around the bar of this tapas restaurant, named for

Spanish twin cartoon figures, are quaffing ice-cold "Kasatkins" (\$8).

The drink, says the restaurant's co-owner Ayse Telgeren, starts with Kas, a Spanish soda flavored with either orange or lemon. Into the soda goes Cava, a Spanish sparkling wine. A choice of fresh peach, lemon or mango juice is added and

the fruity blend is served in flute glass. (With the pairing of effervescent beverages, maybe the drink should be dubbed the "Bubbletini"?)

If the thought of eating anything on a hot night makes you shudder, head to the Patio Lounge in Park Slope. The bar is open until 10 pm on weeknights and until 11 pm on weekends. The bar is open until 2 a.m. every day. The bar is open until 1 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. For reservations, call (718) 923-2864.

Sea Thai Bistro (114 N. Sixth St. at Henry Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrées \$11-\$16. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. The bar is open until 10 pm on weeknights and until 11 pm on weekends. For reservations, call (718) 923-2864.

Zippi Zape (152 Metropolitan Ave. at 3rd Street in Williamsburg) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Tapas \$11-\$14. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Mondays. The bar is open weekdays until midnight and on weekends until 2 a.m. For reservations, call (718) 599-3027.

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If the thought of eating anything on a hot night makes you shudder, head to the Patio Lounge in Park Slope. The bar is open until 10 pm, no food ever. Plunk yourself down at the bar or sit outside in the shady garden and order a **Key Lime Pie** (\$8). The drink is the brainchild of manager Cara Sordon, who uses Stoli vodka, pineapple and lime juices to declared it "almost the real thing"— without the pie crust of course.

It's a complete gestalt: the heat makes you drink and the drink revs up a heat-weary appetite. The establishments above — excluding Patio Lounge — can help you with that, too.



NIGHTLIFE

Apartment 138 (138 Smith St. between Dean and Smith Streets in Boerum Hill) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrées \$10-\$16. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. The bar is open until midnight. For information, call (718) 599-3027.

Night and Day (233 Fifth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrées \$10-\$16. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. The bar is open until 1 a.m. everyday. For reservations, call (718) 399-3027.

Paloma (60 Greenpoint Ave. between West and Franklin Streets in Greenpoint) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Entrées \$11-\$16. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. The bar is open until 2 a.m. everyday. For reservations, call (718) 349-2400.

Patio Lounge (179 Fifth Ave. between Berkeley and Union Streets in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The bar is open from 5 pm until 2 a.m. everyday. For more information, call (718) 923-2864.

Royal's Downtown (215 Union St. at Henry Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, Discover and Visa. Entrées \$18-\$32. The restaurant is open for dinner Monday through Saturday. Closed Sundays. The bar is open until 10 pm on weeknights and until 11 pm on weekends. For reservations, call (718) 923-2864.

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It's a complete gestalt: the heat makes you drink and the drink revs up a heat-weary appetite. The establishments above — excluding Patio Lounge — can help you with that, too.

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100 Wine Tips

Get My August "Best Buys" and Save \$\$\$!

By Darrin Siegfried

Novellum Chardonnay Richly flavored with honeyed notes, the secret to the complexity of this wine comes from aging the wine for a few months on Viognier lees! You'll taste this dry, delicious white and get notes of honey and white peaches on the nose and palate. Crisp "green apple" acidity makes it a great summer wine. — \$9.95

Mouching This one will make you smile... then smack your lips! So many of my Best Buys have been coming from Spain, and this is a perfect example. It's a blend of 80% Tempranillo and 20% Garnacha. It's filled with fresh, ripe fruit flavor with a hint of lemon oil and a touch of floral notes make this a delicious "goes with anything" wine! — \$8.49

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My Cellar Selection for August
A delicious Wine, and a Terrific Value!

Estancia Piedra "Azul", Toro 2005
Isn't it time you started your wine cellar? This is an "Old World" wine, but it is made using the latest winemaking techniques and made in a modern style. Dark, deep purple/red in color with blue flashes at the rim, this full-bodied red has herbed, brambly aromas mixed with subtle peppercorn, berries and licorice. At first sip the wine is fruit forward, with a Zinfandel like. This evolves in just seconds into powerful, rich flavors of dark, mature fruit, blueberry, blackberry, raspberry and savory spice notes. The finish is long, full and persistent, with the soft tannins of the wine and minerals of the soil evident. With this wine it's all about the fruit, with no oak taste from barrels to mask it. For drinking now, decant about half an hour before serving. This is one big, rich, flavor-packed wine that you simply should not miss out on! Now, about that cellar: You don't need an actual cellar... but smart wine drinkers look for wine in a few ways:

1. Cellar — If this wine will improve with a few years of aging... It's not about famous names like Lafite and Latour, nor is it about wines that are financial investments: it's about buying a well made wine that, in a few years, will taste like you paid twice as much for it. When you do open it, you'll be glad that you made the investment, and your friends will be green with envy!

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Yeah baby! Clones love first place!



Field general George Greer never panicked this season — even after his squad opt off to an 0-7 start. Now he's sitting atop the McNamara Division.

FIRST PLACE, BABY! AND DON'T IT FEEL good? Considering how the Cyclones had been written off as dead after the team's punchless 0-7 start, it's no wonder that Brooklyn's Mini-Mets are reveling in the glory of their meteoric rise to first place in the New York-Penn League's McNamara division.

Greer is a general who loves his even-temperedness that could have killed them — like the lame start, the steroid suspension of one of their pitchers and a team building adventure that flitted with the Mendoza Line — has actually made them stronger.

After Monday night's win against the hated Staten Island Yankees, the Cyclones had won 14 of their last 15 games and were voted the best team in the league, 29-18. Even Tuesday's loss to the Baby Bombers kept the Clones one game up on their bitter rivals.

"I told you all along, didn't I?" joked Cyclone manager George Greer. "Every team that I've been associated with had some success had team chemistry and team camaraderie. When you take [players] from extended spring training, you're not in the organization and drafted ... it takes awhile to build that chemistry."

It's also taken awhile for the Cyclone bats to get going.

For long stretches during the year, Brooklyn's offense remained in neutral, unable to put runs on the board and squandering games in which the pitching staff pitched masterfully.

But Greer has pulled a few key tricks to timely hitting.

The offensive spark has been ignited by left-fielder Dustin Martin, who was recently earned the league's Player of the Week award. Martin, who started the season hitting below .200, has become a man on a mission at the dish. Now, the 22-year-old Texan leads the Cyclones with a .327 batting average, a .424 on-base percentage and a .490 slugging percentage.

"It's good like we didn't give up, we expect to win, we have a great pitching performance ... and our hitting has been picking ourselves up," said Martin. "It's just executing with two outs and getting the runners in when we need to ... I think it's just the experience that we had with this season, we've become more of a team and done things right."

LITTLE CHICKEN YOUR DAD DOESN'T HURT

After the Cyclones lost that 26-18 game to the Oneonta Tigers, catching coach Scott Hunter bought a rubber chicken at a novelty store, dubbed it "the Rally Chicken," and made the players squeeze it for good luck.

The Cyclones have been 16-2 ever since — not that anyone is counting.

"We don't like to talk about the chicken," said catcher Jason Jacobs. "He's a behind-the-scenes kind of guy. It's just kind of funny, I like it, it keeps us loose and it's one of those superstitions ... Rally is there for us everyday."

Reliever Rip Warren laughed when asked directly if "Clucky" had helped the team turn it around.

"Aw, I don't know," he said. "There's no one thing, but the team has been playing well and the players are for sure."

Greer also didn't credit the novelty noisemaker.

"All teams always have to have some kind of rallying point," he said. "So perhaps that's it. Once it was 'Win one for the Gipper,' or '54-40 or fight.' There's always some kind of slogan or mental boost ... whatever it takes."

Of course, pitching helps. Brooklyn is second in the league in ERA, with 3.40, led by starting pitchers Stoner (4-1, 2.77 ERA) and Jake Ruckel (4-1, 2.41 ERA).

"Our pitching staff has done very well," said Ruckel, after hurling an eight-strikeout, no-run game against the Cyclones cross-Narrows rivals, the Staten Island Yankees.

The bullpen has also been solid — after all, the Cyclones are 20-4 with less than eight innings. The only downside to the club's "lucky" "chicken" Smith was just called up to Class AA Birmingham.

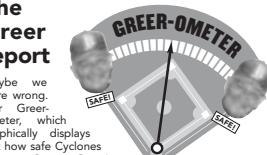
"Everybody's been doing a good job," said reliever Jonathan Castillo. "Everybody's been working hard day after day we've been picking each other up ... from Rip Warren, myself, Josh Appell, [Jose] De La Torre ... When we're in tough situations, it's very important to get the job done."

There is still some job left, but Greer isn't worried.

"The character of this team is only starting to develop," said Greer. "They don't want to lose."

The Greer report

Maybe we were wrong. Our Greer-ometer, which graphically displays just how safe Cyclones manager George Greer's job is, presupposes that minor-league coaches don't get fired, no matter how bad their teams are. And the Cyclones certainly stunk up the league earlier this season, starting off 0-7. Yet Greer remained at the helm, making us wonder if anything could get him fired (answer: no). Then we heard that former Mets great Howard Johnson had been sacked as a batting coach for the Mets' Triple-A affiliate in Norfolk, making us wonder if Greer is next. But with the Cyclones surging into first place this week, a quick check of the Greer-ometer reveals that once again, the skipper is safe!



BROOKLYN CYCLONES COVERAGE



Pennant race heating up

Brooks split with Yankees, remain one game in front

By Vince DiMiceli
The Brooklyn Papers

The race for the New York-Penn League's McNamara Division's crown heated up this week as the first-place Brooklyn Cyclones — fully recovered from their 0-7 season start — split a pair of games with their hated cross-Narrows rivals, the second-place Staten Island Yankees.

Going into play Monday night, the Cyclones (28-19) had a 1/2-game advantage over the Baby Bombers (27-19), with Jake Ruckel on the hill.

Ruckel, who held to Yanks to one hit over 8.2 innings in his last start against them, continued his masterpiece, and out 10 Yanks in 8 strong innings — including the side in both the second and fifth.

Catcher Jason Jacobs got the Brooks the only run they'd need, leading off the fifth with a single and off the scoreboard in left field.

The Clones tacked on a run in the sixth when Joe Holden singled, was sacrificed to second by Jonathan Schemmell,



Cyclone Joe Holden and Yankee catcher Jose Gil react to umpire Adam Hamari's call after the two collided at home plate Monday night at Keyspan Park.

and scored on a singled by Dustin Martin.

They closed the scoring in the eighth when Schemmell, who had singled and reached third on a Martin double, scored on a sacrifice fly by Jacobs.

German Marte closed things out in the ninth, striking out Wilmer Pino and Mitch Hilligoss before he induced slugger Kyle Larsen to pop up the left.

Game over. Cyclones win, 3-0.

But the Islanders came back the following night with an exciting 10-9 winning victory at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George.

Things began well for the Clones, as starting pitcher Todd Privett, a lefty out of West Jordan, Utah, struck out the first two Yankees in six innings, including slugger Kyle Larsen twice.

The Clones were able to put a run on the board in the fifth, thanks to Holden's single to left, which scored shortstop Luis Rivera, who had doubled earlier.

But the Islanders came back the following night with an exciting 10-9 winning victory at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George.

Despite the loss, the Cyclones — whose early season luck had included an Opening Night 18-0 trouncing by the Yankees — remained upbeat.

They are, after all, still sitting atop the McNamara Division.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence right now, and confidence means a lot in this game," said Rip Warren outside a sedate Cyclones clubhouse. "Earlier in the year it didn't seem like we had the same confidence."

The two teams will face each other four more times this season, starting with another home-and-home series, Aug. 20-21.

For complete coverage of the "Across the Narrows" series, including a video report from both games, visit www.brooklynpapers.com.

Mizell continues to show dad

By The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclone reliever Jeremy Mizell has been playing baseball as long as he can remember, but the first pitch he ever threw was aimed at his father's head and smacked the tailgate of daddy's truck.

His father had one reaction:

"His exact words were, 'You won't ever be a pitcher,' recalled the right-hander.

In this case, father definitely does not know best.

In his first season of pro ball, Louisiana native Mizell has indeed been a pitcher — surrendering just one earned run in 21 innings.

More important, he's had the



last laugh over his dad. "I never let him live it down," he said.

Mizell says he hopes to work for State Farm after his baseball career. Perhaps he'll be selling collision insurance to the fathers of erratic-throwing sons.

— Nick Paudy

Who's a Bum?

Jake Ruckel
Ruckel's herky-jerky delivery has earned him the Brooklyn Papers' coveted player of the week award.

Starting pitchers rarely receive this honor, but the 2004 draftee was three eight scoreless frames on Aug. 7, striking out 10 Baby Bombers for the win.

The rubber brought Ruckel to 4-1 with an ERA of 2.41. In just under 60 innings pitched, he's struck out 38 and walked only 6.

The Papers would also like to reward his sharply dancing ball the "Ruckle-buckle."

— Paudy



TRIPLE-THREAT COVERAGE

NGAMWAJASAT
DIMICELI
PAUDY



The Brooklyn Papers / Guy Thomas

Despite the Hawaiian shirt, this is not Sid Fernandez, but a new, yet-to-be-named mascot at Keyspan Park on Monday.

El Sid returns!

By The Brooklyn Papers

Keyspan Park will be awash in the reflected glory of those amazing 1986 Mets on Monday, Aug. 21 as Sid Fernandez, a key cog in that team's machine-like World Series-winning season, drops in on the Cyclones.

It's officially bailed as Hawaiian Heritage Night — El Sid, after all, wore uniform number 50 to honor his native roots, will be much more interested in cheering on their former hero and getting autographs than munching on pineapples.

Fernandez was 16-6 for the Mets in 1986. In his 10-year Met career, he was 98-78. His best season was actually 1989, when he was 14-5 with a 2.83 ERA.

One thing is certain: At least this ceremonial first pitch will be a high hard one

— Gersh Kuntzman



Here's the pitch!

More than 30 women participated in the third annual Ladies Day clinic on Sunday, Aug. 6. Catcher Dan Cummins and infielder Jeremy Hambrice gave a gaggle of gals pointers on the subtleties of the hit and run, the two-seam fastball and how to chew tobacco. Women ranging in age from 12 to 64 participated. Here we see Rachel Eisenman, 37 of Bay Ridge, as she gets a leg up on her pitching mechanics.

Winning continues — right into first place



The Brooklyn Papers / Guy Thomas

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Cyclones 9

Tigers 2

Aug. 4, at Oneonta

The Cyclones completed a clean sweep of the Tigers, thanks to a 3-for-4, 3-run, 1 RBI performance by Jake Ruckel and Luis Rivera, each had two hits, while Dustin Martin drove in two and Jonathan "Country Boy" Schemmell drove in three.

Started Todd Privett allowed just one run in 6 innings while striking out three. Relievers Jonathan Castillo and Jose De La Torre combined to pitch three shutout frames to close it out.

Cyclones 9

Valley Cats 5

Aug. 4, at Keyspan Park

The Cyclones won their 12th in a row — tying a franchise record — in front of 9,066 fans this season that the team has topped at 9,000 fans.

Tri-City jumped out to a 4-0 lead. But Brooklyn plated six runs in the fourth inning. Mark Wright and Tim Grogan contributed RBI singles; Joe Holden hit a two-run

glove with the bases loaded; and Dustin Martin hit his sixth triple of the year to bring in two more. The triple set a new franchise record.

Brooklyn added three in the seventh, highlighted by a two-run double by Grogan.

Reliever Jeremy Mizell got the win, allowing just one run after taking over for starter Neil Norville in the third inning. Rip Warren and German Marte each pitched a scoreless innings to close it out.

The win gave the Cyclones sole possession of first place.

Valley Cats 1

Cyclones 0

Aug. 5, at Keyspan Park

All good things, including the Cyclones' 12-game win streak, must end, but couldn't the Cyclones have put up a fight at least?

It was an old fashioned pitchers' duel between David Quallsen of the Valley Cats and Cyclones' starter Eric Brown.

Brown looked great, but gave up the game's lone run in the fourth on a double play. Quallsen (7 IP), a Brooklyn native, held the Cyclones to only three hits. Brown finished with seven strikeouts.

Cyclones 3

Valley Cats 1

Aug. 6, at Keyspan Park

A new winning streak began thanks to great pitching and some timely hitting. Joe Holden of Brooklyn on the board with an RBI single in the fifth. After Tri-City evened the score, the Cyclones roared back. In the seventh, Danny Cummins singled and drove in Dustin Martin and in the eighth, Jeremy Hambrice put the game out of reach with his first home run of the season.

Starter Tobi Pivett (3-1) gave up one run in 5 1/3, but only got a no decision. Closer Jose De La Torre shut the door on the Cats with two scoreless innings for his fourth save.

Cyclones 3

Yankees 0

Aug. 7, at Keyspan Park

See story above.

Yankees 2

Cyclones 1

Aug. 8, at Staten Island (10)

See story above.

Spinners 4

Cyclones 3

Aug. 9, at Lowell (Late game)

Ratner's Ohio family chips in

Cleveland relatives buy Bruce's Brooklyn company

By Ariella Cohen

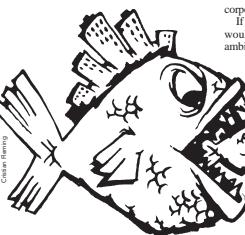
The Brooklyn Papers

Bruce Ratner has called in the big guns — his cousins Charles and Albert — for a cash infusion just as his Atlantic Yards development nears state approval.

Ratner announced last week that he is planning to sell all his shares of his firm, Forest City Ratner Companies, to Forest City Enterprises, the publicly traded company run by his grandfather in 1921 and run by his two cousins.

In exchange for giving up ownership of the company, Ratner would receive \$60 million and 3.9 million shares in a new Forest City limited liability company.

The corporate restructuring — FCE already owned a majority stock in Ratner's Brooklyn-based affiliate — puts his family's \$8-billion



corporation squarely behind Atlantic Yards. If the deal goes through, FCE would own a much-larger piece of Ratner's ambitious project.

The Ratner family deal left everyone from Internet instapundits to Atlantic Yards opponents trying to decipher the tea leaves.

"Decent move today," proclaimed a Yahoo instant-messenger named Richmanspoor, adding, "FCE stock is strong boy."

But opponents of Atlantic Yards worry that profit-interested stockholders — most of whom live far from the neighborhood where the arena and surrounding complex would have its greatest im-

pact — will want to squeeze every penny of profit out of the \$4.2-billion development.

"This is going to put pressure on the company to make sure [Atlantic Yards] is a good deal for everybody," said David Goldstein, Brooklyn spokesman Daniel Goldstein.

Project designer Frank Gehry admitted as much back in April, when he told the New York Times that Ratner took his responsibility to FCE stockholders seriously.

"He's a public company," Gehry said, "so it's a public company."

A spokesman for FCE said that the proposed restructuring would have no effect on the publicly subsidized project.

"Forest City intends to conduct its New York operations in the same manner as it has for the past 20 years," the Cleveland-based company said in a statement.



Developer Henry Weinstein is suing Brooklyn developer Shaya Boymelgreen for colluding with Bruce Ratner.

'Little' developer slaps 'big boys' for collusion

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

A self-admitted "unsympathetic" developer is battling the two titans of Brooklyn real estate — Bruce Ratner and Shaya Boymelgreen — whom he claims colluded to cheat him out of millions of dollars.

In a legal claim filed this week, Henry Weinstein, who owns properties near where Ratner hopes to build his Atlantic Yards mega-project, said Boymelgreen actually lowered his rent terms for him in a Weinstein-project built for Ratner last year.

"Two gorillas decided to mate," Weinstein said.

Weinstein owns the former Ward Bakery complex on Pacific Street that Boymelgreen has used as a headquarters project.

Weinstein claims that in 2004, he and Boymelgreen spoke of pooling their Prospect Heights assets to challenge Ratner.

But at the same time, Weinstein says, Boymelgreen was making out with Ratner, first selling the developer a building for \$44 million — \$24 million more than he paid for it just a few years earlier.

"Maybe some people are not going to be happy, but I'm not the one to block a big project that everybody wants to see going

on," Boymelgreen told reporters then.

More quietly, Boymelgreen transferred his lease in the Weinstein-owned Ward Bakery to Ratner on the same day.

That was done, Weinstein says, without his consent, cheating him out of millions of dollars and rights to develop his one-acre site.

As a real estate speculator himself, Weinstein wanted to play hardball with Ratner only to get hit with a baseball.

"Ratner's people told me if I didn't sell my building, the state would just kick me out," Weinstein said. "And then he went back and made my money go down again."

Weinstein opposes Atlantic Yards — not because it would be bad for Brooklyn, but because of Ratner's methods.

"He misrepresented the facts and who would have caught him if I hadn't," said Weinstein, who admits that he is an "unsympathetic victim" of Atlantic Yards because he is fighting to make millions, not to keep his home in the same footprint. "He has been doing a terrible job."

Lawyers for Boymelgreen and Ratner declined to comment. Boymelgreen's lawyer said in court papers that his client sent a copy of the lease agreement he made with Ratner, but the landlord never responded.

ATLANTIC YARDS COUNTDOWN

11

41

DAYS UNTIL AUG. 23 PUBLIC HEARING

DAYS REMAINING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

(As of Saturday, Aug. 12)

The Empire State Development Corporation invited Brooklynites to comment on the agency's draft environmental impact statement for the Atlantic Yards project by sending letters to ESDC's Maria Mooney, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 or e-mailing atlantic-yards@empire.state.ny.us. We've asked our readers to send copies of their testimony to newsroom@brooklynpapers.com. Here is this week's letter:

To the Empire State Development Corporation:

Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project is not in keeping with the character of the Brooklyn neighborhoods that it would transform.

The environmental impact study shows the terrible consequences that this project would have on traffic in the area (which is already highly congested). Neighborhood groups and objective analysts alike (including the Municipal Art Society) have recognized the tremendous flaws in this project.

Also, Bruce Ratner's company has sought to manipulate public opinion and the process in a duplicitous way — by establishing and bankrolling so-called "community organizations" to support it, by its slick brochure that does not mention the development itself, but displays all the horney aspects of Brownstone Brooklyn that this project would destroy, by the bogus designation of Prospect Heights as "slighted."

Why would such unhandled techniques be necessary if the project were really in the interest of the citizens of Brooklyn?

I urge you to listen to the concerns of the Brooklynites that are affected. We need a different development of the Atlantic Yards — one that includes the community in the process and addresses its needs fairly and responsibly, on a human scale.

Kate Deimling, Bedford-Stuyvesant

The survey says!

Three blocks near Yards hate Bruce

The Brooklyn Papers

In what is being billed as the "first comprehensive survey of local opinion" on the Atlantic Yards project, nearly 90 percent of residents of three Prospect Heights blocks oppose Bruce Ratner's mega-development.

That stunning bit of news was revealed by the Prospect Place Block Association, which claimed it surveyed 150 people on Prospect Place between Flatbush and Underhill avenues.

That stretch is just three blocks from where

Ratner proposes to build 16 skyscrapers, a basketball arena, a hotel, hundreds of thousands of square feet of offices and 6,860 units of housing. And the survey says: 87 percent of local residents are against it. Only five percent are in favor, and the majority of that five percent is actually opposed to the site's use of eminent domain and towers taller than 28 stories, of which there would be several.

Local residents are taking the less-than-shocking survey in stride. So did Forest City Ratner, a spokeswoman had no comment.

MEETINGS...

Continued from page 1

Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church in Boerum Hill, delivered a fiery sermon in support of the project.

"Atlantic Yards is great for this community," Wilks said, his voice rising quickly. "We're going to provide housing and jobs for black people and this community has chosen to ignore."

"This community has chosen to forget about those in poverty [and] our youth who need jobs. What Community Benefits Agreement has this community signed with us?"

Wilks was referring to an agreement signed by Ratner and eight mostly black groups. Under the CBA, Ratner has given hundreds of thousands of dollars to these groups, which are barred under the contract from speaking against the project.

Other project supporters, including Forest City's Stuckey, making his second appearance of the night, were far more muted.

Dozens of opponents of Atlantic Yards stuck to familiar themes, such as the immense scale of the project, its environmental impact, and the process

by which Ratner was given the Long Island Rail yard site for \$100 million less than its appraised value.

— Gersh Kurtzman

Community Board 8

Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, Ocean Hill

The need for job-creating investment came as both supporters and opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project called for the fallow rail yards to be developed.

Race and class divisions played out, as mostly white opponents spoke of the project's negative environmental impact on the community and mostly black supporters complained of the negative impact of Atlantic Yards and high housing costs on their community.

"Things are not OK everywhere," said Maria Luisa of Brooklyn United for Innovative Local Development (BUILD), one of eight groups allied with Ratner.

"We aren't benefiting from the development that is happening."

Another member, Kevin Yارد, called the project a "desperate last-ditch opportunity for the black community."

But opponent Diana Silverman called Ratner's community outreach in central Brooklyn "typical."

"Our fear is Ratner speculation project," she said.

Fellow opponent David Rausch added, "It's a bad idea to build Houston, Texas, in the middle of this community."

Stuckey, completing his community board trifecta, praised Atlantic Yards' affordable housing. — Ariella Cohen

ANGLE...

Continued from page 1

pay to dump our empty water bottles elsewhere.

* New York City tap water is safer and better than bottled water anyway. The Environmental Protection Agency's standard for bottled water, for example, is stricter than the Food and Drug Administration's standard for bottled water.

Plus, our tap water tastes better than all those fancy waters (the Aquafina that's been in Queen's actual is New York City tap water which is then distilled and reconfigured with Aquafina's proprietary mix of minerals).

* The world spends \$100 billion a year on bottled water at a time when the United Nations says that just \$15 billion could double the number of people who have access to safe drinking water.

* And, most important, rich people consume far more bottled water than poor people — so if tap water quality declines, it will fall to the politically less powerful to fight for clean water because the rich have turned their backs on the entire system.

In her posting, Kancelbaum suggested that Park Sloopers "put aside \$1 every time we don't buy bottled water [for the month of August] and make a big donation to a local or national organization."

* I don't know how much money will be raised (or how many times I should put \$1 in the kitty — after all, I spend a lot of time every day not buying bottled water. Then, I just did it again).

But that hasn't deterred Kancelbaum. Sure, she admits her posting has not unleashed a groundswell of support — but she was heartened that no one called her a complete wacko.

"People who are writing back are saying 'Thank you,'" said Kancelbaum. "People are giving me something to think about. People really didn't think about it." (Perhaps that's why Evan is "naive" spelled backwards.)

Our mom went Kancelbaum one further, calling for a boycott of juice boxes — "another environmental evil," she said, offering no explanation. (Do you need one? Move to Park Slope. You'll learn quickly.)

The good news is that if all of New York one day taps into Kancelbaum's campaign, the city's water supply will fill up again.

Of the 1.2 billion gallons of water used by New York City every day, less than one percent is poured down the gutter.

The rest is used for sanitation, toilets, showers, dishes, street sweeping, and the like," said Ian Michaels, a spokesman for the city Department of Environmental Protection.

"So even if all the bottled water drinkers came back to our system, the effect would be practically unnoticeable."

So drink easy, bottled-water-boycotting Park Slopers, the city has you covered.

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Yale on Hook: Park and park

The Brooklyn Papers

What do you get when you put the future of Red Hook into the hands of some of the Ivy League's brightest young architects? A big parking lot.

Sadly, that's what happened when a Yale professor asked his School of Architecture graduate students to plan the future of the historic neighborhood.

The Yale plan, one of a handful of ideas drawn up by the students, calls for turning 143 acres of Red Hook into a parking lot and another 143 acres into a park (together, that comes to almost half of the neighborhood's 680 acres). The plan would create an additional 31,021 residential units, or 3.4 square blocks' worth.

The plan is one of a handful on display at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artist's Council's Summer art show.

Those with a personal stake — rather than an interest in what Red Hook would become —

are not the only ones who are worried. The plan would create a "naturalistic recreation park with canals," an animal preserve, and big box stores spread evenly throughout the Hook, rather than concentrated near the waterfront.

— Dana Rubinstein

BWAC's Summer art show (499 Van Brunt St., between Red Street and the water) continues on weekends through Aug. 20, from 1 to 7 p.m.

Professor Edward Mitchell and his students will be on hand on Saturday, Aug. 12, at 4 p.m. for an artists' talk.

The festival will feature three



Home / Brooklyn Papers / Trashed Honda art

Trashed Honda art

One man's junked car is another man's art, as we learned this week. Our friend and Brooklyn Heights blogger, Homer Fink, sent us this picture of a trashed Honda on the corner of Henry and Middagh streets. Fink joked that the car is "not Dada enough for MoMA," but did call it "the most thought-provoking piece of art we've seen in the neighborhood in quite some time." By Monday, the car was gone. Art thieves, perhaps?

Boro's book fest

The Brooklyn Papers

Stages for performances and readings, as well as innovative "reading room" events, will be held at Borough Hall, including a panel discussion on hip-hop writing moderated by "Post Soul Nation" author Nelson George.

In honor of a new book about fencing, Gleason's Gym plans to set up a ring at Borough Hall for a fencing demonstration. (It's unclear if "Million Dollar Baby" Hilary Swank, who trained for the movie at the famed DUMBO gym — would make it.)

Already, local literati have begun to extract meaning from the coming book.

"I think the big thing here is that Brooklyn has become a center of literary production," theorized Richard Nash, publisher of DUMBO-based Soft Skull Press. "It's not just a place where writers can find cheap rent anymore."

— Ariella Cohen

HURST...

Continued from page 1

One mother has sacrificed separate beds for her two sons by letting her spend her nights crowded with her two children into a narrow den, where there's enough juice to power the room's small air conditioner. The kids sleep on the floor, she gets the couch.

The mother, who doesn't have enough power for the refrigerator, also tossed all her perishables. She just bought a dorm-sized fridge that will probably be able to run on the limited voltage.

"I'm living out of here," said Kathleen Thompson, pointing to a cooler bag filled with ice.

Other residents are dealing with harsh realities.

On a recent afternoon, Loretta Hayden sat on her home hospital bed, her gravely ill daughter lay prone on another bed across the apartment. A fan did little to cool the room, which was humid.

"It's not too know," said Hayden in an Alabama lilt. "It's so hot. My daughter is sick [and bedridden]."

A visiting nurse, who cares for them 12 hours a day, said it's been next to impossible to make the women comfortable.

The daughter has an electric bed, and it won't work without power," said the nurse, Anette Biseur. "If the bed doesn't go up, I can't feed her [unless I hold her head up]."

The angry residents, without full power since July 28, have begun to mobilize.

A sign — handwritten, of course — hangs on the front door urging residents to "call Con Ed and keep calling and complaining."

Inside, another scrawled sign lists the names of several elected officials.

Con Edison spokesman Chris Oertel says the electric monopoly "is trying to expedite the job" of restoring full power. Oertel placed some blame on red tape in getting "a permit to dig in the street." He said the juice would be flowing at full strength by Aug. 15.

But until the power is fully restored, even Thompson's kitty is struggling with the powerless humans.

"I was having to wet her down," said Thompson of Queeny, her 17-year-old gray-and-white cat. "She was having labored breathing in the heat."

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The Brooklyn Papers

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A collage of various business advertisements for home improvement, cleaning, and security services. The ads are arranged in a grid-like layout, each with a unique color scheme and design. Some ads include images of workers, tools, or finished projects. The text in the ads is dense and varied, providing details about the services offered, contact information, and promotional offers. The overall theme is the availability of various professionals and services for home and office needs.